

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COALITION

SUMMARY: R.J. ISA, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DPJL, IS REPORTED TO HAVE TRAVELLED TO ARUBA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIDO POPULAR ARUBENOI(PPA). THIS HAS LED TO SPECULATION THAT THE DP AND THE PPA MAY BE CONSIDERING JOINING THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER QTE JUANCHO UNQTE EVERTSZ. IF A NEW COALITION CAN BE FORMED, IT WOULD ALLOW EVERTSZ TO RID HIMSELF OF THE MOVIMIENTO ELECTORAL DI PUEBLO (MEP) PARTICIPANTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND GIVE HIM MORE FREEDOM OF ACTION.

1. EX-PREMIER RONCHI ISA, POSSIBLY ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF PR ME MINISTER EVERTSZ AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, REPORTEDLY TRAVELLED TO ARUBA TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF ARUBAN MEP MINISTERS IN THE GNA BY ARUBANS OK THE GPPOSITION PPA PARTY. PRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN CONFLICTING SINCE PPA LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER TRANSPORTATION MINISTER LEO CHANCE HAVE DENIED TALKS ON THE SUBJECT. THEY DO NOT DENY THAT SOME TALKS ON QTE GENERAL MATTERS UNQTE HAVE BEEN HELD

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BETWEEN THE DP AND THE PPA. S.G.M. QTE BOY UNQTE ROZENDAL, PRESIDENT OF THE CURACAO DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DPJ HAS ALREADY

FORMALLY CALLED FOR INTERPELLATION OF EDUCATION MINISTER CROES (MEP) OVER HIS PROPOSED FRAGMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

2. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS MADE UP OF THE MAJORITY CONSISTING OF THE NATIONAL UNITED PARTY (NVP-UBLX, EVERTSZ'S PARTY, WITH 5 SEATS, THE MEP, ALSO WITH 5, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) WITH 3 SEATS AND THE WINDWARD ISLANDS AND BONAIRE REPRESENTATIVES 1 SEAT EACH; A TOTAL OF 15--IN THE 23 MAN STALEN. WITHDRAWAL OF THE MEP FROM THE COALITION BUT THE ADDITION OF 3 PPA SEATS AND THE 1 DP SEAT WOULD ALLOW THE NEW COALITION TO GOVERN WITH 14 STATE SEATS.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE THE INCLUSION IN THE GOVERNING COALITION OF WILSON QTE PAPA UNQTE GODETT'S LEFTIST FRENTE OBRERO WHICH HAS 3 STETEN SEATS. OVERTURES IN THIS DIRECTION WERE MADE BY NVP-U WHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED LAST YEAR, 75 FRENTE'S DEMANDS WERE TOO DIFFICULT FOR EVERTSZ TO MEET. FRENTE COULD BE OFFERED ONE MINISTRY 3 PROBABLY LABOR - IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS THREE VOTES; WHETHER FRENTE IS DISPOSED TO COOPERATION WITH THE COALITION IS NOT KNOWN.

4. MAJOR CONCESSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE MEP'S CONCEPT OF ARUBAN AUTONOMY SUCH AS PERIODICALLY HOLDING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON THAT ISLAND: AND DISCUSSIONS OF DUPLICATE EDUCATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND POLICE FACILITIES ON ARUBA AND EFFORTS TO CONVINCE POSSIBLE INVESTORS TO OPT FOR ARUBA RATHER THAN CURACAO. WHILE THE MEP HAS NOT BEEN QUITE SO LOUD IN ADVOCATING QTE SEPARATE STATUS UNQTE FOR ARUBA SINCE JOINING THE EVERTSZ GOVERNMENT, NEVERTHELESS THEIR CHAMPIONING OF ARUBAN APARTNESS HAS MADE GOVERNING MORE DIFFICULT.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTURE OF MEP WOULD LEAVE TWO IMPORTANT CABINET SEATS VACANT: JUSTICE AND FINANCE, PLUS THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MINISTER OF EDUCATION. IN OCCUPYING THE FINANCE SEAT MEP HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND HAS INTERFERED CONSIDERABLY WITH HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION BY ATTEMPTS TO GAIN MORE AUTONOMY AND A BIGGER SHARE OF GOVERNMENT INCOME FOR ARUBA. IN ADDITION, SOME JUGGLING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OF PRESENT MINISTRIES WOULD BE NECESSARY. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE GLAD TO BE RID OF HIS DEPENDENCE ON MEP; WHETHER ANOTHER COALITION COULD BE FOR MEP IS, OF COURSE, ARGUABLE, AND WHETHER ANOTHER OPENING TO THE LEFT UNQTE BY BRINGING IN FRENTE, WOULD REALLY BE PREFERABLE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE BEING EXPLORED.
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